

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 EUR-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 /017 R

DRAFTED BY CU/OPP: PJLYDON:NC

APPROVED BY CU: WKHITCHCOCK

SCA: FSMITH

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O R 281940Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

UNCLAS STATE 111186

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: RICHARDSON COMMUNICATION TO FOREIGN STUDENT
AFFAIRS CONFERENCE

FOR ASST SEC RICHARDSON FROM HITCHCOCK

1. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT TELEGRAM TO GO OVER YOUR SIGNATURE
TO NAFSA CONFERENCE NOW TAKING PLACE ALBUQUERQUE. REQUEST
YOUR COMMENTS AND YOUR APPROVAL 1) TO TRANSMIT IT TO
GERRY BENSON AND RELEASE IN ALBUQUERQUE, AND 2) TO HAVE
CU REPS IN ALBUQUERQUE SAY YOU PLAN TO WRITE SOON IN SIMI-
LAR VEIN TO PRESIDENTS OF APPROPRIATE AMERICAN UNIVER-
SITIES.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

MR. AUGUST G. BENSON, NAFSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ALBUQUER-
QUE, NEW MEXICO.

DEAR MR. BENSON:

PLEASE ACCEPT MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON TAKING OFFICE
AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FOREIGN STU-
DENT AFFAIRS. NAFSA HAS SHOWN A REMARKABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN THE YEARS SINCE ITS FOUNDING, AND HAS, AS YOU WELL KNOW,
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PRESSING AND IMPORTANT ITEMS ON THE AGENDA OF ITS CURRENT CONFERENCE.

3. IN NUMEROUS CONNECTIONS, IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT HOME TO US THAT THIS IS A PERIOD OF ECONOMIC STRINGENCY IN THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WORLD. I AM SURE THAT ALL YOUR MEMBERS AND THE CHIEFS OF ALL YOUR INSTITUTIONS ARE HAVING TO REVIEW THE FULL RANGE OF THEIR DIVERSE ACTIVITIES AND COMMITMENTS.

4. THUS, WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THIS AS A TIME IN WHICH DIFFICULT ADJUSTMENTS MAY BE REQUIRED, I WANT TO STRESS THE LONG-TERM IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE FOREIGN STUDENT PRESENCE IN THE U.S., AND TO REITERATE OUR INTEREST IN BEING OPEN AND HELPFUL TO THEM.

5. THE STUDENT FROM ABROAD IS PECULIARLY VULNERABLE TO THE PRESENT ECONOMIC STRESSES IN THE EDUCATIONAL SPHERE. AT THE SAME TIME, BY THE FACT OF HIS CONTRASTING BACKGROUND AND CULTURE, HE CAN MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE BREADTH AND QUALITY OF OUR LIVES WHILE HE IS HERE. IF WE EARN HIS FRIENDSHIP, HE WILL HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR MANY YEARS AFTER HIS RETURN HOME. GIVEN THIS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO DO ALL WE CAN TO ENSURE THAT THE FOREIGN STUDENT HAS A REASONABLE CHANCE TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS FOR WHICH HE CAME TO THE UNITED STATES.

6. THE PAST AND PRESENT ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WORLD IN EDUCATING FOREIGN CITIZENS ARE FORMIDABLE. I HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED, MOREOVER, BY EVIDENCE THAT A SECOND GENERATION OF CAMPUS ATTENTION TO FOREIGN STUDENTS, ENCOURAGED BY A NEW AWARENESS OF GLOBAL INTERDEPENDENCE, HAS BEGUN TO FOCUS ON THE QUALITY OF THEIR TOTAL EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE. SPECIFICALLY, MORE AND MORE INSTITUTIONS ARE STUDYING WAYS TO COUNTER THE ASPECTS OF AMERICAN EDUCATION WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE UPROOTING OF FOREIGNERS FROM THEIR HOME CULTURES AND ECONOMIES. MORE UNIVERSITIES ARE EXPERIMENTING WITH HIGH QUALITY PROGRAMS RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF OTHER SOCIETIES AND

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CULTURES AS WELL AS OUR OWN.

7. MOST SIGNIFICANTLY, EDUCATORS ON SEVERAL CAMPUSES ARE FINDING WAYS TO PROMOTE MORE AND BETTER SOCIAL AND ACADEMIC INTERACTION BETWEEN FOREIGN AND AMERICAN STUDENTS. WE HAVE ENTERED A PERIOD OF PRODUCTIVE SELF-STUDY DURING

WHICH FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS WILL POSE THE HARD

QUESTION OF WHY AND HOW FOREIGN STUDENTS FIT INTO THEIR OVERALL INSTITUTIONAL DESIGN. I HOPE THAT THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN STUDENTS WILL SOON BE MORE WIDELY RECOGNIZED AS AN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE AMERICANS WHO STUDY ALONGSIDE THEM -- AND FOR THOSE WHO TEACH THEM.

8. I LOOK UPON THESE DEVELOPMENTS AS THE REALIZATION OF A NATIONAL SELF-INTEREST OF THE MOST ENLIGHTENED KIND. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL TAKE THIS EXPRESSION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE'S INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT HOME TO YOUR UNIVERSITIES AS ENCOURAGEMENT FOR JUST SUCH A VIEW OF FOREIGN STUDENTS AND SUCH EFFORTS TOWARD THEM.

9. IN CLOSING, LET ME WISH YOU AND NAFSA EVERY SUCCESS IN MEETING THE CHALLENGES AND SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH WE FIND BEFORE US IN THIS FIELD AS YOU OPEN YOUR TERM OF OFFICE.

10. SINCERELY, JOHN RICHARDSON, JR., END DRAFT TEXT RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDENTS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE111186
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PJLYDON:NC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740133-0832
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740513/aaaaaljh.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 NOV 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 NOV 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RICHARDSON COMMUNICATION TO FOREIGN STUDENT AFFAIRS CONFERENCE
TAGS: SCUL, NAFSA, (RICHARDSON), (BENSON)
To: PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005